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Work and Workers.

REV. JULIUS A. BEWER, PH.D., has accepted the chair of Old Testament literature and theology in the Oberlin Theological Seminary, the position left vacant by the death last October of Professor George S. Burroughs, Ph.D., D.D. Professor Bewer is a graduate of the Gymnasium of Düsseldorf, Germany, and of Union Theological Seminary, New York. From the latter institution he received a fellowship in 1898, and studied in Europe.

A MEMORIAL to Professor Thayer, speaking of the character of the man, the thoroughness of his scholarship, and the great influence which he exerted upon New Testament study, was contributed to the *Sunday School Times* of January 18, by Professor M. B. Riddle, D.D., LL.D., of Western Theological Seminary. These two men, with ex-President Timothy Dwight, D.D., LL.D., of Yale University, were the three surviving members of the American Revision Committee for the New Testament; and it was they who carried to completion the American Standard Edition of the Revised Version which was issued last August by the New York publishing house of Thomas Nelson & Sons.

WE desire to make two slight corrections in the article entitled "Grinding in Palestine," which was published in the January number of the BIBLICAL WORLD. On p. 10, l. 11, where it is said that "small braces are fitted in[to the millstone] from the peg to the sides of the central hole," Dr. Dalman states that only one narrow piece of wood is used, with a small opening for the peg. He adds that the hole of the upper millstone never is of a conical shape, such as shown in the article "Mill" in the Hastings *Dictionary of the Bible*; instead, the hole is always rudely cylindrical. Also on p. 10, l. 7 from the bottom, instead of *Qera'in* and *Mātha* should be read *Qer'in* and *Mālha*.

THE removal is announced of the Bible Teachers College from Montclair, N. J., to New York city. The lectures for the winter given in connection with this school began January 7, in the chapel of the Broadway Tabernacle. The time of the lectures is in the afternoons of the middle days of the week. Courses are given in the study of New Testament books, in the teachings of Christ, in the prophets and

institutions of the Old Testament, and in the new religious pedagogy. The lecturers are Dr. W. W. White, Mr. Robert E. Speer, Dr. D. W. Rogers, Dr. Stibitz, Dr. Huizinga, Dr. S. P. Cadman, Dr. J. Balcom Shaw, Dr. F. S. Schneck, Dr. A. H. Bradford, and Mr. L. D. Wishart. The official address of the college is 45 West Thirty-fourth street, New York.

AFTER a long and exceptionally useful life, Dr. Conrad Schick died in Jerusalem on December 23 last, at the age of eighty-six years. He went to Palestine when a young man, as teacher in one of the mission schools; and for more than half a century he studied the historical and archæological problems connected with the Holy Land. He was a constant contributor to the *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and to the *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*, besides being the author of an important book on Jerusalem. No single scholar has obtained a wider reputation or influence in questions connected with ancient Jerusalem. He was buried in the Holy City on Christmas day, amid the sorrow of all residents of every nationality, whether native or European. We hope to give a more complete account of his labors in a subsequent issue.

A SERIES of volumes under the general title of "The Ancient East" is arranged for by the publisher David Nutt, of London. These volumes are the translations of works published originally in Germany, and the translations will be revised by the authors. The volumes are to be very small, consisting of sixty-four to eighty pages, but are intended to be scientific at the same time that they are popular. The authors of the series are leading scholars of Germany, who will set forth the recent discoveries and investigations in Babylonian, Assyrian, and Egyptian history, religion, and archæology, especially as they bear upon the traditional views of the early Christian church. The volumes to be issued in the series during the present year are as follows: *The Realms of the Egyptian Dead*, by Professor Alfred Wiedemann; *The Tell-el-Amarna Period*, by Dr. C. Niebuhr; *The Babylonian and the Hebrew Genesis*, by Professor H. Zimmern; *The Babylonian Conception of Heaven and Hell*, by Dr. Alfred Jeremias; *The Political Development of Babylonia and Assyria*, by Professor H. Winckler.

PROFESSOR A. B. DAVIDSON, D.D., LL.D., one of the most distinguished Old Testament scholars of the present day, died suddenly in Edinburgh on January 26, of heart failure. He was sixty-two years of age, but in apparently good health, having conducted his classes on

Friday as usual. He received his education in the University of Aberdeen and in the New College, Edinburgh, the latter being the theological seminary of the (now United) Free Church of Scotland. In 1863 he was appointed to the professorship of Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis, and this position he held till the day of his death, his whole life-work having been performed in connection with this institution. In 1870 he was chosen a member of the Old Testament Revision Committee. He is well known in Europe and America by the important books which he wrote, and by the frequent articles which he contributed to theological journals. His *Introductory Hebrew Grammar* (1874) has been the standard work on the subject in Great Britain; his *Commentary on Job*, in two forms (1862 and 1884), his *Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews* (1882), and his *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel* (1892) have had wide circulation and use. These works of the great scholar remain as his legacy to succeeding generations, continuing the influence of his noble life and service.

It is with much satisfaction that we repeat here some sentences contained in an editorial in the Chicago *Interior* (Presbyterian) of January 23. That several of our best religious newspapers have taken a positive stand for the general use of the Revised Version, as against that of 1611 A. D., indicates clear, progressive thought and action among us. "Do we dare allow another generation, who might now be set free, to grow up in bondage to the errors of the Authorized Version which so constantly require explaining away? Is it not, in fact, an undeniable duty before God to bring his inspired revelation to the children in home and Sunday school by the most perfect vehicle accessible? The *Interior* commends this inquiry to the sober thought of the church. For ourselves we deem it nothing less than obligatory henceforth for parents and teachers to make the American [edition of the] Revised Version the standard of Bible instruction for the young. After much consideration we are prepared to urge that the new translation be formally adopted as the text-book of all Presbyterian Sunday schools. We believe that the coming General Assembly ought so to declare it, and should direct the Board of Publication to use the revised text, and no other, in all Sunday-school helps. . . . It is palpable inconsistency to receive the Bible as God's Word, and yet by explicit or tacit sanction put a higher value on a version not accurately representing what he said, than upon a version where his message is repeated with precision, in language easy to be understood by even the

unlearned." The truth of these statements cannot be denied, nor can they be evaded for any length of time. What should be done in this matter must be done and will be done.

THE April number of the *BIBLICAL WORLD* will contain an extended account of the life and work of the late Professor Thayer, with a recent photograph of him, and a list of books and articles which he published. This memorial article is being prepared by Professor C. J. H. Ropes, of Bangor Theological Seminary, who was a close personal friend of Dr. Thayer, and who has been able to secure full information for this biographical sketch of his life. We are glad also to print at this time a tribute to the great New Testament scholar by one of his recent pupils, Mr. Wallace N. Stearns, of Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, O.:

PROFESSOR THAYER: A STUDENT'S APPRECIATION.

The death of a great man is always a calamity. We lament the loss of leadership, even though we do not experience the feeling of personal sorrow. We realize that another name has been added to the long list of illustrious dead. But new leaders appear and life bears on. Greatness is too often bought with a price—the distorting of self to gain a specific end. The tendency of investigation is to lead the scholar away from human interests and to convert him into a machine. Men pour out life in their work, and what is left is dry dust or empty shell. This may be a noble sacrifice, but it is a terrible price.

The scholar who has escaped the perils of pedantry is well-nigh a unique phenomenon. Such was Professor Thayer. To scholarly attainments, rare insight, and marvelous accuracy of method he added a striking personality. Students admired his learning; they loved the man. "A strong mind, or a cultivated mind, may challenge respect; but there is needed a noble one to win affection." His mind was both noble and strong. His scholarship was universally recognized; it long since became known across the seas, and won for him the fellowship of the choicest spirits. Few, however, really comprehended his entire worth. One met him in this field, another in that. All acknowledged his genius. Now that he is gone, we realize what one of his colleagues has appropriately said: "We never knew until now how much and in how many places he would be missed."

He was a man of rare refinement and purity. No objectionable word was heard from his lips. He never stooped to meanness or pettiness. His soul shrank instinctively from what was coarse or dishonorable. In manner, as in fact, Professor Thayer was a Christian

gentleman. Energetic, he was never brusque ; courageous, he was never bold ; gentle, he was never weak ; self-respecting, he was never haughty or overbearing. His life was squared by his rule : "Follow truth if it takes you over Niagara." But prudence never lost her sway. "There is great danger," he would say, "from half-knowledge recently acquired." What was well founded he championed fearlessly, but only after it had stood the test of searching investigation. Little things did not disturb him, but when aroused he was eloquent. The lives of the martyrs were to him stirring themes, as were the deeds of those who perhaps amid persecution and misunderstanding had labored in the interest of biblical science.

He lived much in the lives of his students. Nothing pleased him so much as to see a pupil discover a problem and work it through. He would visit a student's room to listen to a reading of a first copy, and this not as a superior, but as a friend. Absence from his classroom elicited inquiry : in the midst of arduous labors he would visit the sick-room and offer his services. His own troubles were kept hidden ; he had a kindly word and a beaming smile for all. There was a magnetism about the man that drew others to him, a frankness that forbade deception, a sympathy that compelled love, an atmosphere of enterprise that rebuked sluggishness.

Professor Thayer was a rigid disciplinarian. He exacted the very best from himself, and he sought to bring his students to the same high plane. Carelessness ever met with stern rebuke ; yet, even as he spoke, tears filled his eyes and revealed the kindly heart. He has called men to him after a conference that he might say : "I think more of you and of your work than perhaps you think." His parting words as we left him were : "So do your work that whenever you are called you can meet your Judge and say : 'This, Lord, is the best I could do.'" "The tendency of life," he once remarked, "is downward. Only by heroic and unceasing effort can we hope to excel." In such a spirit he toiled for more than a quarter-century to make his *Lexicon* what he felt such a book ought to be. Beauty marks all his work, because he toiled and strove so faithfully.

The master is not dead. His life is a fact ; his influence still lives ; his example is before us ; the fruits of his labor are our inheritance. His soul has entered upon that life of which he believed the present to be only a foreshadowing.

WALLACE N. STEARNS.

DELAWARE, O.